

Bethany Lutheran Church

"To grow so deep in Christ through worship, education,
and fellowship that we celebrate by reaching out to others."



God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? – Micah 6:8

IMPORTANT DATES

- 04-02** - Maundy Thursday @ Springdale UMC 7:00 pm
- 04-03** - Good Friday @ West Branch UMC 7:00 pm
- 04-11** - Council Retreat 9 am-12 pm @ Bethany
- 04-26** - 4th Sunday Community Meal 5:00-6:00 pm



Greetings Faithful People of God at Bethany Lutheran,

At the beginning of this month I once again had the opportunity to attend Lutheran Day on the Hill. This is an annual event sponsored by Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI). For those of you who don't know, LSI has been in existence for 150 years and throughout these years they have been providing human services to people of all ages across the state of Iowa. Their services span a wide range from therapy and intensive crisis intervention with families; to residential treatment for children and teens, to community support for people of refugee status and people with disabilities. Lutheran Day on the Hill is a dedicated day that pastors and members of Lutheran churches across Iowa gather in Des Moines to learn about LSI, spend time in prayer, and then head to the State Capitol to advocate on behalf of LSI and other non-profit agencies who do so much for the people of Iowa; especially, those most in need.

Each year when the fliers start to come I quickly think maybe this year I will pass. After all, it is during Lent and I have plenty of other things going on. I really don't need to waste an entire day going over and back and further, will my voice even make a difference? That is an easy mindset to get into. Yet, I think back upon past years and know that our voices do matter. It is exciting to see a huge group of folks decked out in our blue shirts blanketing the insides of the State House. People can't help but notice us and stare at our shirts to see what they say. As I look back and reflect I only wish I would have had this opportunity sooner in life. One of the guest speakers prior to our trip to the Capitol was Pastor Dan Rift, director of ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal. In his presentation he said, "We give faith voice in many different ways." One of those ways is by advocating on behalf of our neighbors who are in need.

That day we gave faith voice by gathering together as the church, wearing our blue shirts, and conversing with our elected officials about issues that pertained to protecting the most vulnerable in our society. Yes, they knew we were Lutheran by our shirts and that many of us were pastors yet in our conversations we didn't use "God" or "Jesus" language but we did proclaim the gospel in acting for justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with our God. If you have never contacted your elected officials I encourage you to do so via phone, email, or in person if you get the chance. If you don't know who your state officials are simply go to www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/find and search by city, zip code, or address.

There are many ways we give faith voice and I am grateful for the ways each of you do so that are many and varied. Thank God for all you do and know that it does matter. It is part of our calling and who we are as a people of God. And next year, I truly hope you consider attending and ride the charter bus over to the State Capitol, have a spot of lunch in the Capitol, and maybe just have some fun in the process. If you are nervous or feel you won't know what to say, don't worry because we visit our officials in a group and the first year you can simply observe.

In peace,

Pastor Chad

Contact Information

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FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

Simply search "Bethany Lutheran
Church (ELCA) West Branch, Iowa" on
Facebook and "like" our page!

ALSO FIND US ON TWITTER!

Search @blcwestbranch



LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

April is Month of the Young Child & Child Abuse Prevention Month

In 2014, LSI's early childhood programs made more than 14,900 home visits to Iowa families with infants, toddlers and preschoolers. These programs help parents learn about child development, parenting strategies and community resources, and they can also help reduce some of the risk factors that may lead to child abuse or neglect, such as critical stress. LSI often partners with parents who grew up in unstable home environments and desire to give their own children a different quality of life. Your support helps our youngest Iowans grow up healthy and safe!

LSI is proud to be an affiliated social ministry organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Learn more at www.LSlowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

A New Parenting Path

When Kalee became a young mom in high school, she knew exactly what kind of parent she *didn't* want to be.

"My childhood was very different," she said. "There was a lot of miscommunication on all levels and yelling all the time. I had a lot of trouble growing up, and I didn't want my kids to go through that."

Instead, Kalee and her partner Shane are finding their own parenting style, thanks to some support from LSI's Families Together program. Families Together is a voluntary home visitation program that offers families parenting education, community resources, support and more.

"Kalee and Shane are so much fun to work with," said Gaylene, an LSI caseworker. "They are very good parents. They just needed a little more confidence in their skills."

For example, the family learned new communication tips to use with their son Gabe, age 4.

"Before we started the program, Shane and I fought a lot about different parenting styles," Kalee said. "We would get frustrated when we couldn't get Gabe to understand what we wanted him to do. We learned how to talk to him better, and now we're on the same page."

Through Families Together, LSI can partner with families at any time from before their child is born up to age 18. On average, an LSI caseworker will meet with a family for 10 – 12 months. That approach, which builds trust and relationships, is comforting, Kalee said.

"Gaylene feels like a part of our family," Kalee said. "Gabe always asks when she's coming. Having her here also helped prepare Gabe for school."

Kalee hopes her two children will grow up happier than she was, she said.

"I don't think it will be as much of a struggle for them to succeed," she said. "They will feel more secure and loved than I felt growing up."



While making your plans for this summer remember to save the dates for Vacation Bible School. This year VBS will run from **July 27 through July 31**. Counselors from Camp EWALU will be here again this year so it's sure to be a good time for all.



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Bethany Books

by Frank Frostestad

Books For Adults

The Great Reformer: Francis and the making of a Radical Pope by Austen Ivereigh is a biography that gives the reader a good insight into what has made Pope Francis the person he is and where he is taking the Catholic Church. He is the first pope from the Western Hemisphere and is a symbol of the shift of church membership away from Europe to other parts of the globe. The first part of the book tells of his growing up in Argentina and his early years as a Jesuit priest.

There is more history of Argentina than one usually reads but it helps one to understand the environment that shaped him. He proved to be an excellent administrator but he had a vocation rooted in pastoral ministry among the poorest people. This later is a key in understanding his beliefs and actions. It also explains how he came to become pope. He has gained tremendous attention and appears to not believe in business as usual. This book gives insight into where he might be leading the Catholic Church. (member recommended)

Do you wonder why other people do not think the same as you do on matters of religion or politics? Today, in America, we seem to be so divided especially on the political scene. What seems obvious to one is quite contrary to another. The same ideas mean different things to different people. Sometimes it feels as if half the population is living in a different moral universe. *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided By Politics And Religion* by Jonathan Haidt seeks to answer this question. Haidt shows how moral judgments come not from reason but from intuition. This book will help to understand your friends, enemies and fellow citizens. (member recommended)

Understanding Jesus by Stephen M. Miller is a guide to his life and times. Often we do not get the full meaning of what Jesus says or does because we do not fully understand the context in which it takes place. The book gives insights into ancient Jewish customs from birth to burial. New and important meanings are presented that typically not been considered before.

A second book by Stephen M. Miller, *Who's Who & Where's Where In The Bible 2.0* is an illustrated A-to-Z dictionary of the people and places in the bible. This is a handy reference written in everyday language, to help in understanding the bible.

Chicken Soup For The Soul: Messages From Heaven by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, and Amy Newmark is another book in the *Chicken Soup* series. It is a collection of "101 stories of signs from beyond, amazing connections and love that does not die". (donated)

Book For Children

This month's book is *Timothy Grows In God's Word* by Carolyn Bergt. This book tells about Timothy as a baby, a boy, and a man. God helped Timothy grow in many ways and children can grow also when they hear God's word. (donated)



Adult Education Opportunities



Pastor Chad's sermons can now be found on Bethany's website (www.wbbethany.org) by placing your cursor over the "Resource" tab found on the home page and then selecting "Sermons" when it pops up. Additionally, some people have requested an email with the sermon attached. If you prefer that method please contact Pastor Chad.

Bethany Men's Breakfast Bible Study Group
Wednesdays at 6:00 am
in the Great Hall
All are Welcome

Thursday Women's Bible Study
6:00 am in the Small Hall
All are Welcome

Adult Discussion Group
Sunday mornings at 10:20
In the Small Hall
All are Welcome

April Birthdays

04/01 Aubree Cassabaum, Jacob Webb
Sharon Schubert
04/06 Bob Pedersen
04/09 Steve Yeater
04/10 John Black
04/10 David Fischer
04/11 Kent Kaufman
04/14 Cassie Colvin
04/15 Aizlyn Marsh, Scott Weineke
04/16 Tony Johnston
04/18 Paula Casper
04/21 Rena Holmes
04/22 George McCrory, Pat O'Connell
04/23 Nanci Weineke
04/25 London Kiley
04/27 Elsa Boedecker, Courtney Bruns
Lindsey Bruns
04/28 Karen Friis
04/30 Samantha Knoop

Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly In the Name of Jesus Friday, May 29-Saturday, May 30, 2015 Lutheran Church of Hope, West Des Moines

We are used to praying "in the name of Jesus." But what does it mean to live and serve "in the name of Jesus?" Join us for the 2015 Assembly of the Southeastern Iowa Synod, as we worship, sing, share stories of our faith, and act... *In the Name of Jesus.*

Bethany will be sending 2 delegates to the 2015 Synod assembly, 1 male and 1 female. As of this time we do not have anyone who has volunteered to represent us. Hotel rooms and registration will be paid for by Bethany. If you would like to attend this event please talk to Pastor Chad or Paula as we will need to register soon.

Bethany's Community free meal time is changing, we will now be serving dinner from **5:00 pm to 6:00 pm.** Please join us for fellowship and a meal.



4th Sunday Meal

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES
MARCH 9, 2015

Called to order: 6:30 pm

Members present: Pastor Chad, Jill Taylor, Courtney Heid, John Black, Candy Madsen, Paula Casper, Greg Lipes, Carol Roghair, Kevin Olson, Laura Twing (10 min late)

Opening devotion by Candy Madsen

Pastor's Report:

WBARC meeting discussed changing Baccalaureate to Wednesday rather than Sunday.
Adult Bible study will discuss Table and Font.
Technical updates by Chris Marshall are coming along well.
Lutheran Day on the Hill in Des Moines, (today) attended by Pastor Chad and Laura Twing.
There was a great turnout for Ash Wednesday Community service, with 7 clergy (active/retired) in attendance.
Funerals this month again being the most stressful of tasks.
An anticipated absence on March 22 will be filled by Pr. Sarah Goettsch, of Lutheran Campus Ministry.
Council Retreat will be April 11, 9 to 12 am.
Pastor will be helping chaperone middle school students on a trip to Washington DC June 19th through 24th.

Secretary's Report:

After noting a spelling error to correct, Kevin Olson moved to approve the minutes from February 9.
Seconded by Courtney Heid, all ayes.

Treasurer's Report:

Moved to table treasurer's report discussion to next meeting by John Black, seconded by Greg Lipes. All ayes.

Building and Grounds Report:

Things that need attention this month in the parsonage; dishwasher, bathroom tile, roof and floor.
Building committee met and worked on custodial job description wording and salary; also on building use policy, emphasizing clean-up checklist completion by user.
Using memorial money for new tables (Lifetime plastic) was discussed, also wanting memorial money to be directed outwards.
Insurance - committee met with Titus Group representative, compared current policy with two other quotes. John Black moved switching to Grinnell Mutual Insurance at next payment due date. Paula Casper seconded, all ayes.

Education Report:

The contract with EWALU for Vacation Bible School has been received. VBS will be July 27th through 31st. The deposit of \$200. will be paid this week. Total cost will be \$1300.00, same as last year. "Save the date" cards will be sent. No new Sunday School teachers have been found yet.

Missions/Evangelism Report:

A letter has been received from Mbakweni, prompting discussion of possibly sending them a laptop.
Food pantry needs remain high.
Encouraging congregation contact with legislators as part of mission.

Fellowship Report:

4th Sunday Suppers- the signage will be changed to reflect community more than free. Timing change discussed as well.

Stewardship Report: none

Youth Report: none

Worship Report:

First Lenten Service of Prayer around the Cross was well attended and received. Palms have been ordered, and flower orders for Easter are in process. There will be 2 Easter Services again, with Choir and special music.
Not getting much response for altar care participation. Will put an announcement in the bulletin.
Discussed, with sampling, using local winery to provide communion wine. Considerable increase of both cost and quality.
Large print Hymnals have been received. Will monitor usage, and consider large print bulletins also.
There is also an option to get hymns printed in the bulletin, for approximately \$400.00 annually.

New Business:

- * Having Paul Friis and Deanna Weismann review and list current contents of safe
- * Use memorial money for new fireproof safe that can fit in all old record books
- * How many credit cards does the Church have, and who is authorized? Process? Hy-Vee, Menards, Staples
- * New receipt vouchers.
- * Paying organist for snow closures.
- * Representatives to Synod Assembly are needed.
- * Should we paint sanctuary and great hall for 2017 anniversary?

Meeting adjourned at 8:17pm



Daily Bible Readings

The foundational premise of this set of daily readings is their relationship to the Sunday lectionary. The readings are chosen so that the days leading up to Sunday (Thursday through Saturday) prepare for the Sunday readings. The days flowing out from Sunday (Monday through Wednesday) reflect upon the Sunday readings. The complete Daily Lectionary is also found on pages 1121-1153 of our hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

Wed - April 01	Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 70 Hebrews 12:1-3 John 13:21-32	Sat - April 18	Acts 3:1-10 Luke 22:24-30 Psalm 4
Thurs - April 02	Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-17, 31b	Sun - April 19	Acts 3:12-19 1 John 3:1-7 Luke 24:36b-48 Jeremiah 30:1-11a 1 John 3:10-16 Psalm 150
Fri - April 03	Isaiah 52:13-53:12 Psalm 22 Hebrews 10:16-25	Mon - April 20	Hosea 5:15-6:6 2 John 1-6 Psalm 150 Proverbs 9:1-6 Mark 16:9-18 Psalm 150
Sat - April 04	John 20:1-18 Romans 6:3-11	Tue - April 21	Genesis 30:25-43 Acts 3:17-26 Psalm 23 Genesis 46:28-47:6 Acts 4:1-4 Psalm 23
Sun - April 05	Acts 10:34-43 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Mark 16:1-8	Wed - April 22	Genesis 48:8-19 Mark 6:30-34 Psalm 23 Acts 4:5-12 1 John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18
Mon - April 06	Daniel 12:1-3 Psalm 16:8-11 Acts 2:14, 22b-32 Matthew 28:9-15a	Thurs - April 23	1 Samuel 16:1-13 1 Peter 5:1-5 Psalm 95 1 Chronicles 11:1-9 Revelation 7:13-17 Psalm 95
Tues - April 07	Genesis 1:20-2:4a 1 Corinthians 15:50-58 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Song of Solomon 3:1-1	Fri - April 24	Mark 14:26-31 Psalm 95 Amos 8:1-7 Acts 8:1b-8 Psalm 22:25-31
Wed - April 08	Mark 16:1-8 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	Sat - April 25	
Thurs - April 09	Daniel 1:1-21 Acts 2:42-47 Psalm 133	Mon - April 27	
Fri - April 10	Daniel 2:1-23 Acts 4:23-31 Psalm 133	Tue - April 28	
Sat - April 11	Daniel 2:24-49 John 12:44-50 Psalm 133	Wed - April 29	
Sun - April 12	Acts 4:32-35 1 John 1:1-2:2 John 20:19-31	Thurs - April 30	
Mon - April 13	Daniel 3:1-30 1 John 2:3-11 Psalm 135		
Tue - April 14	Daniel 6:1-28 1 John 2:12-17 Psalm 135		
Wed - April 15	Isaiah 26:1-15 Mark 12:18-27 Psalm 135		
Thurs - April 16	Daniel 9:1-19 1 John 2:18-25 Psalm 4		
Fri - April 17	Daniel 10:2-19 1 John 2:26-28 Psalm 4		



APRIL 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship	30	31 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	1 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:15 PM Choir Practice	2 6:00 AM Women's Bible study 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Worship @ Springdale UMC	3 7:00 PM Good Friday Worship @ West Branch UMC	4
5 8:00 AM Easter Worship 10:00 AM Easter Worship	6	7 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	8 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Circle 6:15 PM Choir practice 6:30 PM Confirmation dinner and study	9 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	10	11 9:00 AM Council Retreat
12 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship	13 6:30 PM Council Meeting	14 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	15 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:15 PM Choir Practice 6:30 PM Confirmation dinner and study	16 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	17	18
19 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship	20	21 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	22 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:15 PM Choir Practice 6:30 PM Confirmation dinner and study	23 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	24	25
26 9:00 AM Worship followed by fellowship 5:00 PM West Branch Community Meal @ Bethany	27	28 1:00 PM Quilters 1:30 PM Hope Chest Open	29 6:00 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 6:15 PM Choir Practice 6:30 PM Confirmation dinner and study	30 6:00 AM Women's Bible study	1	2

Financial Report

Submitted by Jill Taylor

February Attendance:
 02-01 Snow day
 02-08 72
 02-15 55
 02-22 62
 Total 189

	February		YTD	
Total Receipts	Actual NA	Budget 12,334	Actual NA	Budget 24,668
Total Expenses	9,394	13,025	21,630.69	26,052

Thank you all for faithfully stewarding the gifts God has entrusted us with in fulfilling the ministry and mission of God here at Bethany Lutheran Church! In so many ways, not just monetarily, God is abundantly providing for our needs.

